

# Travel Reminders

If you plan on traveling outside of the U.S. be sure to read the following information on what documents you will need to return to the U.S. or to renew your F-1 visa.

## Documents needed for re-entry to the U.S.

### Required:

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
- Valid, unexpired F-1 visa
- Most recent, original I-20 with a travel signature on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page that is less than 6 months old

### Additional requirements for students on OPT:

- Original EAD card
- Letter from your current employer verifying proof of employment

### Recommended:

- Copies of your transcripts from the previous terms/semesters
- Copies of your class schedule for your current and future term/semester
- Financial documents with enough funds to cover the expenses listed on the first page of your I-20

## Problems upon entering the U.S.

If you have any problems when re-entering the U.S.A., be sure to come to the ISS Office within a week of your return.

- Bring any documentation given to you at the border
- Bring your I-20, passport, visa and any other documents you used to enter the country
- Print and bring a copy of your I-94 record (at [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94))
- Write down a detailed account of what happened, what they said at customs, and any other relevant details right away so that you don't forget anything that might be useful

## Emergency contact: +1 561-237-7226

If you are having problems at the U.S. border, call +1 561-237-7226. This will connect you with Lynn University Campus Security and they will forward your call to an International Student Advisor.

### Call this telephone number if:

- You forgot your I-20 or do not have a valid travel signature on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page
- The officer at the border cannot find your SEVIS record
- The officer at the border does not believe that you are a current student at Lynn University

### Do not call this telephone number if:

- You lost your luggage
- You missed your flight or your flight was delayed

## See reverse side for visa renewal process

# Visa Renewal

## F-1 Students

### How to renew your visa:

1. Complete online visa renewal application (Form DS-160) at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
  - a. Save your progress every 15 minutes as the system times out every 20 minutes.
  - b. Print and keep the DS-160 barcode page (you do not need to print the entire application)
2. Schedule a visa interview appointment at the US consulate or embassy nearest you. Locations listed at [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)
  - a. Review consulate's webpage for country-specific instructions
3. Pay the visa application fee as directed on the consulate's website.
4. Take all required documents to your visa appointment.
5. Upon return to the USA, bring your new visa to the ISS Office so that a copy can be saved in your file.

### Where to renew your visa:

- Can only be renewed at a US consulate or embassy outside the USA
- Best to renew in your home country in case of delays or problems

### When to renew your visa:

- Semester breaks (winter and summer) are typically the best because you have more time
- Start the online application process before you leave, so that you can schedule the first available appointment for as soon as you arrive in your home country
- After any applications to USCIS have been approved (If you applied for a Change of Status, OPT, or Reinstatement, you will need to show the approval as part of your application)

### Things to remember:

- Your visa can expire while you're in the USA, and that is okay – you only need a valid visa when traveling internationally
- The consulate will only extend your visa until the expiration date of your F-1 status (so the program end date on your I-20 or the end of any approved OPT authorization)

### Automatic Visa Revalidation:

- If you are traveling to an adjacent country (Canada, Mexico, most Caribbean Islands) for less than 30 days, you can do so on an expired visa.
- Review process at <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/automatic-revalidation.html>
- **If you start the visa renewal process while abroad, you are no longer eligible for automatic revalidation – you must wait for the visa to be approved!**

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Valid I-20, signed for travel
- Valid passport, good for 6+ months in the future
- Proof of financial support
- Verification of enrollment (Registrar's Office)
- SEVIS I-901 receipt
- Confirmation of completed, online visa renewal application (Form DS-160)
- Approval notice for any Change of Status, Reinstatement or OPT applications submitted since applying for your last F-1 visa
- Any other documents required by the consulate where you will apply ([www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov))

**NOTE:** You will be asked questions to determine “non-immigrant intent” and **ties to your home country**. If you have documentation to support this, that can be helpful.